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DISTRIBUTION II 7CONSERVATIVES TRYING TO BLOCK CARLUCCI

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WASHINGTON (AP) - CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS, UPSET WITH THE CIA'S PERFORMANCE UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER, ARE TRYING TO DISSUADE RONALD REAGAN FROM APPOINTING DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR FRANK C. CARLUCCI TO THE SECOND-RANKING JOB AT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, GOP SOURCES SAY.

CARLUCCI, 50, WHO ALSO SERVED IN THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS, IS REPORTEDLY THE CHOICE OF DEFENSE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER TO BE HIS DEPUTY.

BUT SOME CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS HAVE LAUNCHED A BEHIND-THE-SCENES CAMPAIGN TO DENY CARLUCCI THE INFLUENTIAL JOB, CHARGING THAT HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WEAKENING OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AND AIDED CARTER'S CAMPAIGN TO WIN RATIFICATION OF THE SALT II TREATY, SOURCES SAID.

THE REPUBLICAN SOURCES, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, ALSO SAID CARLUCCI IS COMING UNDER ATTACK FOR HIS LACK OF DEFENSE EXPERIENCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF WEINBERGER'S LIMITED BACKGROUND IN MILITARY MATTERS.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK HE DOESN'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT DEFENSE," SAID ONE SOURCE.

IN ADDITION, THE SOURCE SAID RIGHT-WING REPUBLICANS FELT CARLUCCI "DIDN'T DO ENOUGH TO STOP THE PROSTITUTION OF THE INTELLIGENCE DATA" THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CITED TO BACK ITS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF U.S.-SOVIET MILITARY BALANCE.

"MANY PEOPLE FEEL HE PARTICIPATED IN A GRAND DECEPTION; THAT HE UNDERESTIMATED SOVIET CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONALLY ALLOWED MISASSESSMENTS TO MISLEAD THE CONGRESS IN THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE," SAID ANOTHER SOURCE.

THE SOURCE CLAIMED THAT IF CONGRESS HAD BEEN CORRECTLY ADVISED OF SOVIET STRENGTH, THEY WOULD HAVE VOTED MORE MONEY TO BEEF UP U.S. MILITARY FORCES.

ANOTHER SOURCE COMPLAINED THAT CARLUCCI PRESIDED OVER THE "DECLINATION OF THE (COVERT) OPERATIONS SECTION OF THE CIA" AS DEPUTY TO CIA DIRECTOR STANFIELD TURNER, WHO CRITICS CONTEND HAS RELIED TOO MUCH ON ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE GATHERING WHILE DOWNPLAYING THE USE OF AGENTS.

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